

Extremities

12

Vrging the Lord General Sir

FRA. VEARE to offer the late Anti-partie  
with the Arch-duke *Albertus*. Written by an  
*English Gentleman of very good account*  
from *Ossend*, to a Worshipfull Gentle-  
man his friend here in England:  
Imprinted verbatim according  
to the originall.

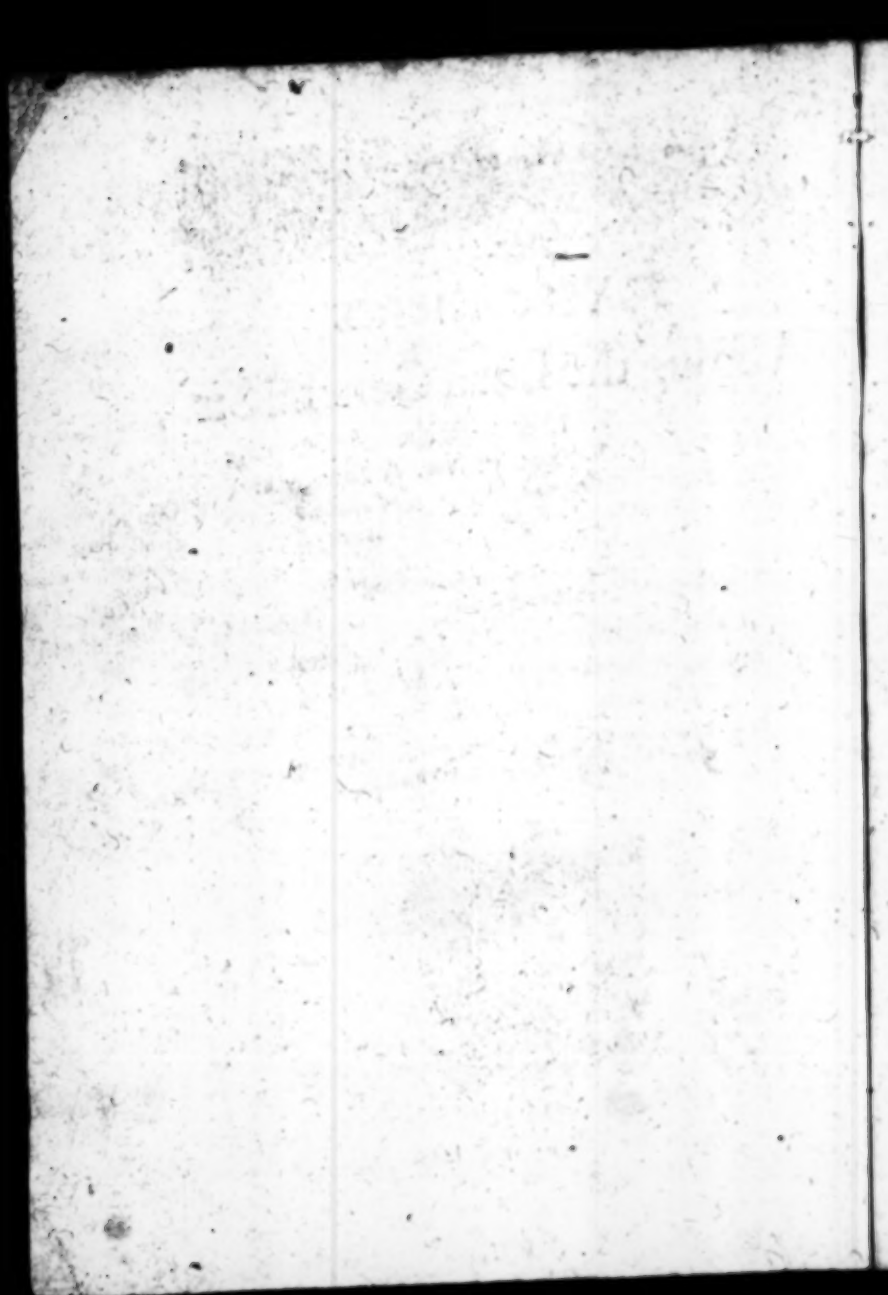
With a declaration of the desperate attempt  
made since, by the sayd *Arch-dukes* forces,  
for the winning of the olde Towne.

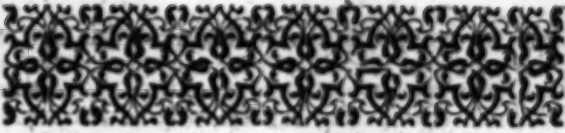
With an addition of some farther particulars taken  
out of the Dutch Coppie, receiued since  
the first impression hereof.




AT LONDON  
Printed for Thomas Pauier.

1602.



  
● Extremities pressing the Lord Generall, sir  
*FRAVNCIS VEARE*, to offer the late  
Anti-parle to the Arch-duke  
*Alberus.*

**N**OT doubting, but your Worship hath heard  
of our late Anti-parle with the Arch-duke *Al-*  
*berus*, heare in *ostend*, which I assure my selfe, is  
of many wondered at: and againe, knowing that no  
small number will iudge thereof: Some, according to  
their vnderstandings, and other-some as they are caried  
with affection: I haue thought good, to aduertise you of  
the very truth thereof, for your W orships satisfaction;  
And better contentment of all Gentle-men to whom it  
shall please you to impart the same. Wherein I assure  
you, I haue plainly set downe the truth, without all  
faout or affection, as hereafter followeth.

 **H**is Loyd-shp, hauing by many letters for the  
space of two Monethes together, solicited the  
States to reenforce him with fresh supplies  
of men, was still answered againe with hope-  
full promises, meane time his troupes in  
Towne were generally harrazed and woyn  
out, especially the English, by guarding and watching in the  
workes, without the towne euery second night, for the space of  
sixe Moneths together: their durie passage thither, and their  
mytie guards there, infecting them dayly with increase of sick-  
nesse: so as by diseases, and other accidentes of Warre, be

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had not remaining at the time of the Parley begun, being on Sunday night the xiii. of December (after the old stile) of 8000. Souldiers and upwards, 1150: And such as know Ollend as it is now, & have withall any judgement in martiall affaires, can discern that the Towne alone cannot be sufficiently guarded with 3000. men, leaving out of this computation the outward workes, and most part of the Counterscarpes, which are in deed principall pillars of safetie to this place.

Againe, the fury of the sea had so demalished the Rampart of the Towne, that the same lay very weake and open in many places for the Enemies passage. And (notwithstanding that good indures had been used, and much cost bestowed to secure vs against both those dangers, by stoe of long greene Rife-wood lodged in a pile at the North-west end of the Fawx bray (the support of the foot of the Butwarke called the Sand-hill) and of like wood platted along the foote of the Sand-hill to the Sea-worke, fastned besides the workmans art) with great stones, and well lined with sundry rankes of Pallzadoes armed with long and strong nayles of Iron) yet did the Enemy in the darknes of a boisterous nyght at a low water, so artfully, and with such expedition, put fire to the same Pile, entertaining our guardes a good distance from thence, towards the North-east part of the old Towne with an alarm, in the meane time that few enclyped their eyes to this fiery business, untill the fire had fully imbraced the same Pile. This alarm being (to say truth) coldly taken, the Enemy followed his popur till they came to the place of our new Haven, being neare the North-east ramelling, and there finding the passage to enter open, and no apparance of resistance, they entered: and coming to a Corps du guard, they found one onely bowsey bird in the nest, whom they killed, the rest being shamefully fled after their wonted manner: yet I forbeare to name my Nation, *Euphonia gratia.*

In the heate of this business, his Lordship (tenderly accompanied) fell upon the skirt of all the place where the enemies were, and bring with much difficultie perswaded to stop his further progresse, till discourie might be made before him, much trou-

troubled with feare of treason, he sent away Captaine Scudder,  
Commander of his owne companie, with one Spallier Greuill,  
Spallier Tedcastle, & some one or two private men besides.  
These stumbled vpon the enemye: against whom making a  
countenance of a charge by their bayes, Sa, Sa, he put the to re-  
tire to the sandes by the same way they entered: whereby it may  
be conceiued they had full victorie of our new Haue, there they  
perceiuing the seruises of those that pursued them, turned head,  
and with a Spallier, shot Captaine Scudder through the arme,  
and then made away, none of ours in case to follow them, by rea-  
son of their Caualary, whereof we haue none in Towne. & as  
this error been committed by any English Commander, I  
durst haue aduised to haue made an Almanacke of his end.

This fire burned outrageously for the space of 3. dayes and  
nights without ceasing, viz. from Thursday night till Sunday  
night: neither could our Souldiers come well to quench it, the  
enemies Cannon still giuing against them, when they offered  
themselves thereto: neither could the billowes of the sea, wa-  
shing at euery tyde farre above the height of the fire, extinguis-  
hing the same: for it had gotten passage into the ground, and there  
found matter of continuall nourishment, by such timber and  
poles as were lodged there, for the support of the foote of the  
peece: and though it had been quenched sundry times, yet doth  
it burst out againe: and on Tuesday last, I saw it burne againe  
my selfe. Our chiefeest enginours are of opinion, that the hea-  
ted with such extremitie, by fury of the fire in the pile of Rife,  
is the chiefeest cause of the long continuance thereof. By this fire  
the Fawxbray, and the side of the Sand hil lying towards the  
sea, were both layd open againe to the mercy of all weathers,  
and violence of the enemies, in farre worse sort then it was be-  
foze: and this was an other instance of inducement, &c.

Another is, and that not the least passage to allow, for his L.  
was, we were & are still many contrary nations in towne, Eng-  
lish, French, Scots, Wallons, & Dutch, and thereby a boorb-pot of  
contrary and dissonant humors. A naturall instinct as the world  
knoweth, hauing disioyntment of affections, yet hitherto we  
haue had good harmonie, and by his Lordships well tempered

command, all humours well tuned, neuertheless since the enemy had formerly bene practising by sowing of factions amongst vs, his Lordship to prevent the worst, layd these reasons as one step to his protect.

Further his Lordship had 4. little fortresses called Redoubts in hand at the same time upon the rampart of the olde Towne, for the better securing thereof with few men, if the enemy should attempt vs, for those little skones would haue been their scourges upon their entrie (each one flanking other) & our guardable against their furle with few men: for besides their Ramparts they now are fenced about with heigher and very strong pallisades: these begun to open lay open, and nothing neerer finished. And this was another branch of his Lordships feares.

After all these, commeth the maine, which was, as his Lordship was certainly informed, that the Arch-duke was resolved that night to attempt vs in maner following, viz: The Councie De Bukquoy, who commanded the forces on the East-side of the Town, was to giue onset at the North-east rauellling of the olde Town upon a low water, which serued that time exceeding well for their purpose falling out about 6. of the clocke at night.

Then from the West, they purposed to try vs by the Sand-hill, & in two places more of the olde Towne, viz: the port Du-pied, which is a small rauellling in a countericarp, lying West North-west from the Towne, and is indeed a place of great importance for the keeping of the Town-ditch full with water, and to prevent the enemies passage to lay our maine Rampart: and this place by fury of the sea, and rage of their Cannon, lay then meerely open and not tenable by any meanes.

Their other places where to come on, were our out-ward works, lying South and by West from the Towne, called the South-square, the Powder, and the West-square: from which last worke commonly called the Colonels worke, they had about 3. weekes before bene gallantly repulled in the night, by our guardanes, being all English, and dyuen to returne with farre lesse blood, then they brought thither.

Another reason which was very powerfull with his Lordship, was a noble and religious care and sense to spare the efflu-

Sap. or vndermine.

sion of so much Christian blood as in all likelihood (if the enemy had assaied to carry vs by their resolved furie, must haue bin shed on both sides.

Inuelled with these extreames of impendant dangers, his Loyship after many bitter traueries though his great heart that scoynes to scope, to the mightiest enemy whofoeuer, found that neuertheless the best, and most assured passage to generall safetie, was to temporize with the enemy by a Parley, so, Dolus an virtus quis in hoste requirat, till the finishing of his workes in hand, and the arrivall of his succours howeuer expected, might settle him againe in termes of better assurance.

But by the way, I had forgotten to tell you sir, that upon preconsultation, all our outward woozkes about mentioned, were to be abandoned, and all our men driue into the Town, and so they were: for as I said before, the paucitie of our numbers was such as came farre short of a proportionable guard for the Towne alone, yet though the slacknes of the States, his Loyship had formerly been driuen to extenuate his said workes to halfe their greatnes, to make them guardable by few men: for they doe much import the safetie of the town.

Now, sir, to lay our extreames thus open to the enemy, to his so great advantage and encouragement, and notwithstanding to be little or nothing secured thereby, what a gaulke and cruciament it might be to his L. those that knew the temper of his spirit, can easily conjecture, but are now repayed.

So summoning (as I said in sort before) all his considerations together, he flew to that refuge necessarie shewed him to bee the most assured. And hereupon called all his Captaines of the severall nations together, or so many of them as were not in guard, the time would endure no delay. This being towards evening on the Sunday formerly mentioned, they all bearing his conceits, applaude it, and the Netherlanders more forward then all the rest, doe almost presse him with importunities to diligent the execution thereof, offering themselves to bee agents therein, but shynke in the wetting immediately: which boldnes and refusall of theirs, had almost quite untwisted the fusties of their late resolution in the ende, Captaine Ogley, Lieutenant



tenant Collonell to his Lordship, and Capt. Fairfax, are desired to be the men, as Hostages onely for such as the Archduke should send hither to treat with his Lordship.

And so immediately upon sound of one of our Drums from the post Dupied, after losse of some breath by Capt. Ogle, who was unheard, called to them a good space in Spanish from thence, they were roused to attention: being (as was conceived) busie about their enterprize, and so, not so attentive as it is like otherwise they would have been, considering how neere and dangerous neighbours we are one to the other.

All this tedious Discourse, I have bin bound to trouble your Majesty withall, onely as a Lanthorne to give you the best light I could, for the thorough understanding of our estate & our way: and now I will bring the acting of this project before you upon the stage, beseeching your pardon if I shall seeme tarable for idle lightnes, by inserting accidentall issues in a subject of such weight and seriousness: for many times, *Vocatus et non veniens*.

His Lordship (as I have before declared) having made tender of his harsh talking parley: I name it harsh, in regard of his constraint, thereto finding the enemies very tractable, and expecting prompt to entertaine the same, did without any losse of time the same evening, send away to them the two, for named Captaines, Ogle and Fairfax, upon sayth given for their safe tie and returne. A truce and generall cessation of all hostilitie on both sides being promised during the time of their stay for land matters, but no further. Or else our abandoned lawfull to be possessed by them. Upon the arrival of our Hostages in the enemies Armie, they were brought to his Highness at his house of Alburton: he for welcome bayed his dog Spangely, had them welcome, demanding of what nation they were, whether they had instruction from our Generall to create with him about this place, and upon their answers thereto negatively: he asked them further if there were not fraude intended? They answered as ignorant of any, and that they are onely sent as Hostages for such as his Highness should please to send to



so his Loyalty about the purpose hereafter must with-stand, but since tender respect to his Father, they were carried from his presence to the lodging of Don Augustus de Wittin, a gray and grays headed Spaniard, Countess of the Castle of Antwarpe, chiefe Commander of the Archbishops forces at the west-end of this town, a Gentleman of most accomplished virtues, by their applauses: in the Chamber of this youthfull and gallant (so his gray head hee weareth a graine habite) they were lodged, the place being beautified with faire hangings and reciprocal correspondents in the rest. W<sup>ch</sup> all the gallant Spaniards, Italians, and whatsoever else of other nations of any respect, they were entertained and courted by turnes, and having withall many watchfull eyes, and listening eares on them: but the gentlemen both of them, have been so well bred, and are so well qualified, that neither of them will easily open way by any dissimulation for taxation or vexation, nor will they be so much distressed to have any words of faulsh speeches, or ways, than where they passed, neither were they any more watchfull guard over them.

Whilst these flourish of hostile courtships increased (no doubt with hope of a private good bargain) and shales upon our Capt. in the remote Camp, one Mathew de Witt, Countess of Sluise, Generall of the Archbishops artillerie, and one of his Council of Warre, together with one Mathew Antonius, Count Palat to Simon Ambrosius Countess of Antwarpe towne, both Spaniards and men of prompt and smart spirits, and Judicious touch, came into the towne, but his Lordship protesting still the necessity to winne time, and how to entertaine de-lays, hee as two daughters (upon the approach of the time of parting) attended over the water at west, with about 60 horse, came an alarme to be taken, for hee made where hee sawe them all plainly, and layd hold on the manner of their coming for his advantage, charging them with breach of promise, and other faultie-like reasons, and so would neither speake with them, nor see them, but gave peremptorie remembrance, that they should be forthwith returned backe, thereupon they were conducted backe to the place where they came over, but the sea being

*He told his  
Titles him-  
selfe at table*

being grown (which his Lordship knew well enough) beyond  
 their passage, and they upon backs againe into the towne: then  
 came forth with new hopes of better intertainment (y<sup>e</sup> heats  
 of their desire failing by the eyes of their subgovernor his A.  
 being advertised herof, gave passage over they should be sent  
 away by the East. *But* *the* *subgovernor* *was* *not* *so* *easy* *to* *be* *so* *soon*  
 shewd as you may please to knowe that Scanno being there, well  
 pleased (notwithstanding the large walks betwixt the houses  
 Albertus, and their trenches) grew somewhat incensed, and de-  
 sired to stay in towne all night, but that would not be grann-  
 ted, and so the Mergaunt Boies of the towne (Captaine Car-  
 penter by name, and one Captaine Clove and another) con-  
 veyed them through the towne, with many slepp by the way  
 (at least) in durts and myze, so as the tired Spaniards began  
 to enquire a breach in his patience upon the seventh bathark,  
 which lyeth at the East end of the towne, a speciall Conduyter  
 of durts and myzes, standing by to the kitchen, he desired some  
 Tobacco by his refreshing, reclining in French, Ad la me-  
 chant ville de Ostend, but in stead thereof (because there was  
 none to be had) he, and his associates were presented with 4  
 pots of good English Beere, which went downe merilke, and  
 so thoroughly be-duried, they were brought to the sentinell of  
 Canallarie on the East side; and out of their extreames and  
 myze wearines, they lodged at East all night, with Count De  
 Bucquoy, not being able to recover the Archdukes quarter be-  
 fore the next day at 11 o' clock: And hereby somuch time was gat-  
 ten.

After the returne of the two Spaniards to their Duke, the  
 same men were againe appointed to trie his Majesty's order  
 more, and sending word over to be there, were admitted to  
 come, (our Captaines all this while remaining with them  
 upon faith given as aforesayd.) The Mergaunt Boies of the  
 towne demanding which way he should bring them in, his  
 Majesty tolled him to guide them where they might come  
 fast enough, for feare of embroiling their feet on the hard stones:  
 saying withall, that beinge in the durty walks, they should

come to as cold a bargain as ever they met with in their lives.  
 Upon their entry (which was upon Monday night) they  
 were directly brought to his Lodgings, being in his Chamber,  
 after interchange of compliments, his Lordship began his ex-  
 pose for the reason he had committed the night before, confess-  
 ing he had been unwell, charging (nevertheless) the accus-  
 qu theret upon their strange manner of coming over, and so  
 according to the Law of Beame which is *Que le batto payera*  
*L'Amende*, they were plagued and must besides confesse them-  
 selves worthy thereof.

They being hot at the shell, it is easily to digest that, & say,  
 now they hope his Lordship & they shall agree: he answers,  
 The agreement is easily made if his Highness will raise his  
 legs, and suffer to (as his neighbours) to live by him in  
 peace. Scarron replied, that was his errand thither, but hoped  
*Que vous ferrez de nostre bagides*, his Lordship (to enter on  
 further progression in this discourse) tells them after this won-  
 derful journey, it is more fitting to entertain them with  
 some refreshing, then with serious expostulation, and ther-  
 upon intreats them to Supper, whereto they yield. And al-  
 though it were their Custom to eat, and thereby sitting  
 day, they did not so much eat fish, eggs, and such like,  
 besides as a tolong so long bedegged could afford, taking out  
 in Clarret wine what they lacked in meat. Scarron thinking  
 for his share about five or six glasses of wine, besides Wine,  
 answering every man in the cuppe, and yet gave no manner  
 of appearance of yielding any way to distemper. During their  
 sitting at Supper, many smart jests were done with good  
 dexterity on both sides. Amongst others, I remember Scarron  
 plotting a passage by circumstances of saying, to discourse of their  
 perfect business; gave his Lordship occasion to tell him that his  
 Altesse desired all, and the States would be willingly part  
 with nothing. The Spaniard replied, that the Archo-  
 demanded but his stone to put his in. Scarron, he had  
 never desired the Lawes to judge of mine titles, but that  
 in England he too commonly holds possession, & yet never

of the 13. the later to hopefull with all, &c. Another to as; his  
 Lordship saule them; that now his Highness hauing continued  
 his Siege with such admiration and fame, as that in this age &  
 compasse of the world; the like hath not ben heard off, and yet  
 men be to abandon our outward marches. To retire our selues  
 altogether into our Towne, he might with great honour arise  
 and leaue us, and thereby prevent the ruine of his Army, which  
 through wet lodging, and continuall labour, most needs be ex-  
 tremely decayed, and also prevent the effusion of much blood  
 an blood otherwise.

To this Sciano replied, that since his L. had with such ho-  
 nour (as was applauded throughout all Christendome) so long  
 preferred this place against so powerfull an enemies, and that  
 as they all knew most certainly, many extremities had over-  
 taken him, whereby he was enforced to with drawe himselfe  
 wholly into that little ruinated nest, it could be no manner of  
 blamy to him to do so.

Thus either of them by contrarie intended imputations be-  
 heaved to extoll his owne carriage and praises; many other  
 prompt counterbursts were passed, (which to auoide tedious-  
 nes I passe over) after supper the Spaniards (wounded with  
 their late mutinies) were by his Lordships command to  
 their lodging, where with slender guard for satisfaction, he  
 leaue the outward duties of the house, they rest til morning.  
 Before which time 3 Shippes of warre laden with 6 compa-  
 nies of 70 and 80 soldiers arrived in the road before the Towne,  
 which the enemies without saying this easily to iudge whether  
 he was offened or no. Whereupon betimes on the next day  
 morning they sent in post for his L. resolution; and Sciano  
 himselfe, (although ignorant of our supplye) unperturbed his L.  
 say answer, &c. which he receaues forthwith sounding to this  
 effect. viz. *that the long contrarie*

What it was true that some wayes through the long contrarie  
 tie of the winds, and other accidents had overtaken him;  
 and thereby he enforced to make vse of his witts, to helpe him  
 selfe by turning of time, till his turne was otherwise serued,  
 and that was now since the States had ben mindfull of him &  
 toinde

to the positions, and his necessities supplies; he could not in honour proceed to traffick with them any further, neither had moze to saye to them, untill another extremitie, (if any might happily lay new hold on him) should occasion him thereto. Hoping his highnes as a vertuous and worthy Prince would not take it ill, that as a martiall man he has practised and considered the best meanes for the preservation of his honour and safety by the ordinarie and usuall course of men of warre.

The Spaniards (having the saire hopes of his fruitfull harvest thus quite blasted with this cold nipping answer) did nevertheless in the most temperate manner he could, smothered and suppressed his almost choaking discontent; for he refused by negotiating of this business, to have made himselfe famous to ensuing age, and so with this cold breakfast (in stead of his Christmas pie) hee forthwith departed, leaving his companion behind him, till our Captaine should be informed further his passage hither was by hartest death, inel from the wilderness. Travelling, where he could be almost as part of the fortification: and by this repaire into their trenches, Capt. Poyntz was sent home; and the Lieutenant staid, so as they held the more worthy person. About 4 of the clock the same day, Capt. Ogles came to stand out west against the port. Dupont was pointed with the great Marshall of the Curried Camp; and with one Owen an English fugitive, saying so the Spaniards Seriant Baloy here in towne. He having dined with my Lord after the dutch entertainment was conducted out of towne by Capt. Snodder to the same place, where Sepago had been formerly imboated. Where was a little remaining conference, which should be passed first. But the Lieutenant Collorell would not much therewithin, although the wealthier person and the subject of a farre more absolute and greater Prince, the reason (as I learned) being because we had been the positioners, and so the Spaniards carried it.

This I especially observed being present, and seeing the acting thereof, as I did also that his Lord (although hee speaketh Spanish very readily) did notwithstanding use onely a French tongue with the twoo Spaniards, which (all the Dutch Captaines

toines vnder standing) the picture of all that passed, and there  
 by all secrets were reuealed. The truth is, the boats lay on our  
 side where the Sparyard was, and the water then ebbing, car-  
 ried it with a swift course to the enemies side, so that (as it  
 then appeared) when they had giuen the adieu on both sides,  
 our Capt. Ogle entered into the boats, the shippes could not re-  
 turne against the streame, but wining with the same, landed  
 him on our countrescayp, where he thought best, and here cea-  
 sed our Iubilee, I call it a Iubilee, for during this cessati-  
 on of hostilitie, I thinke there issued out of the neighbour ene-  
 mies fortresses about 2000 Burgers with their wiues, &c. to come  
 to the Archbishops camp, walking byp and bowing the sandes  
 and trenches of the enemies, verie nere the towres, as though  
 we had been all good friends, and so did their soldiers likewise:  
 but ours kept within of purpose to conceale our weaknes, and  
 notwithstanding faich enterchaungably giuen to forbeare all  
 violence during the treatie. yet did our whole troups hold  
 continuall and generall guardes without relying vpon any  
 promise at all. All this while our workes in the old towne  
 were aduanced with all diligence, and secretesse possible, and  
 made defensible before our part ended. Our newe fortres lan-  
 ded also this day, betwene 12 and 2 of the clocke in the euil  
 towne, in despite of the enemies Cannon, without any  
 more losse then the hurt of the two shippers, & as I can learne  
 of two soldiers, but none killed, nor those mortally wound-  
 ed.

And yet to giue the enemies his due by saying the full truth,  
 they were more then bountifull of powder and shot, to hin-  
 der our mens landing. All this while wee remained quiet on  
 both sides without shotte little or great, but the next mor-  
 ning (being Wednesday) they first opened the windowes of  
 their wonted displeasure; it being my Lords pleasure, that a  
 merie man in towne should be quiet, till the enemies should  
 giue occasion to the contrarie, and then wee resaluted them  
 with good Cannon, and so all thinges stand on their former  
 frame, all our outwards workes repossessed and guarded as  
 before.

beside, and so wee line dayly expecting more supplies from the States: that our poore men maye not be at last bestraitened in Holland after their longe and miserable toyle.

Whee have vnderstande of late by an Italian gentleman one of their Centinells Penken, who was brought prisoner into towne, that the Archduke is highly offended with his counsell of warre by diuerting him fro the execution of his resolution, which was to haue attempted us on the twentieth night, (so often spoken of before) with good men, &c. that by reason of the vntimeliness of his passion, some of them haue come in his presence, for preventing his opportunities by their dissuasions: and besides that, he is no lesse displeased to haue been so mocked by his Lordships.

For the future, if the States finde themselves able, and haue withall a will to continue the charge, which the weakness of this place hath already got, and will still laye vpon them: (the Archduke continuing his rage by affecting it with competent numbers of well armed soldiers, and other needfull provisions) there is yet no appearance of danger, nor cause to feare the enemies proceeding: but if they lacke faith, and giue the Duke such an other opportunity (as hee has now of late) they, and all the world besides, may be assured hee will make his best vse thereof.

By Cannon there remaineth small hope for him, if the States faile not to send him more supplies therewith in the night what hee spoyleth in the day: for, with this and sandwingled, we worke chiefly on both sides, we haue already endur'd aboue 16. 1700. Cannonshots, and yet all our bastions and defenses still firme and tenable, bating only their outward faces (which what vnkindness by the furie of the mine: that most of them haue endured, especially the sandhill, which is to be seen with bullets, that our men labouring to vnderstande palliades) doe afford vnto vpon our bayes one hole together: and their pillars, & palliades often binged in their entrance by the abundance of bullets lodged in their

Rise or Ba-  
men.



may. To undermine vs it is not possible, so lge as we can hold what we haue, so: to the Landward lie our entrenches, to prevent their approaches that way, & our other places of passage are wetherwise high every side, and so the sea affordeth them little time to worke against vs, where it challengeth passage. Besides this, all our Bulwarks looking towards their trenches are united, and prepared for all such accidents.

Then, eyther furie, faction, or famine must open him way, for furie here is little cause of feare, if (as I sayde before) the States can, and will furnish their towne with sufficient numbers of men.

For faction, the vigilancie and discretion of the Commandeer, being a man of sound understanding, trained in this occupation, may easilie break those impostumatus, as hitherto his Lordship hath done, to the great increase of his honour, and better approbation of the foundries of his iudgement: for the enemies made an Englishman, one Simon Conisbye, an instrument to worke for him that way: but I presume that Conisbye by the rack, and smart of the whip at the gallies seat, hath learned a lesson to like some other trade to thine by, and the fellowe was in my charge to kepe, and sounde by questioing and expostulations, and thereby I knewe the managing of that busines.

And to be furnished (bullette both the States, and England abandon vs) were verie strange: for notwithstanding all these tries the enemies hath either at East, or West, on the sands or piles of the old Haven, or else where) we haue, when the winde serueth, some nights 40 sailes of Voyes and Swackes come in together, and scarce one man hurt. We haue further more a new haven almost redie, where night and day ships may passe at pleasure. Besides, if both these should faile, the States may (with long boats, which they call hompes) land as ny thing in the old towne, as they did their Island soldiers of late, marie this place serueth only for such small open boates, but for no Voyes nor Boates of burthen.

And

And so for a Conclusion, if the States stand byd tearmes  
of honour, and start not asde like a broken doer (if having  
ben their fashion to grow wearis of such chargeable murk chil-  
dren, as they tearme it here) you se many apparant probabi-  
lities for their holding of this towne against the Archduke, for  
a longer time then is expected; he will wast himselfe befoze it, &  
yet all the charge of his armie and of all provisions is borne by  
the country, who have, and doe still furnish him verie plenti-  
fully with all necessaries. Besides, the recoverie of this towne  
would be so beneficiall unto him, and such safe to his subjects,  
as they have good reason to trie their uttermost means to car-  
rie it: for besides that, it would absolutely free all y sea coasts,  
and country within of roads and incursions, wherewith they  
are exceedingly infected by this towne, and withall give the  
Archduke good commmentence for the lodging of his gallies and  
other shipping with little cost. It would enable him to bring  
at the least 6000 men into the field yearly, then he not  
both as can. For he is constrained to hold many garrisons  
in houses builded here and there in the land, to blocke up this  
towne, which require many men for their defence, and wash  
on for their wages, and by fortification, &c. a mightie charge.  
These men, & charges I say, if he could penurie here, would  
bee converted to other uses, and a spacious countrie of fertile  
ground now over-floved, and serving to no use, in few years  
wholly recovered and made profitable, and all contributions  
(which the feare of this garrison enforceeth) from the Bonen  
quite cut off.

As I was about the shutting upp of this tedious and ill di-  
gested discourse, News came that the Archduke hath now  
at last pacified, and reconciled all his mutinous soldiers which  
have ben long time in Brabant, as at Decst, Heremalla and o-  
ther places thereabouts, holding for none but for themselves  
(their discontent growing from want of pay, which it seemeth  
the Duke hath not given them contentment of.) And that  
these forces being neere 7000, and marching this way to re-  
enforce the enemies Camps, and to force us if they can, the  
issue, time will bring forth. Speake time, with most humble  
remains

remembrance of this to your worship, beseeching the almighty  
 God to bless and prosper you (begging pardon for this ex-  
 tremediousness) I take leave. From Oxford this Saint  
 Stephens day after the old stile 1601. scribled in haste, for the  
 most part by candle light.

His Lordship (to leave no stone of advantage unrecovered)  
 causeth every soldier to come doubly-armed to the watch, eve-  
 ry Muskettier bring'ng withall a Pike, and every armed man  
 carrying a musket, to serve with either as neede shall occa-  
 sion.

His owne troubles (unless he had a body of health, being  
 continued any long time) must needs bring him into sickness:  
 for there passe fewe nights, wherein hee walketh not abroad,  
 or watcheth not the most part thereof, and in the day time hee  
 is so continually possessed with busines, that he hath no time  
 to sleepe, and fewe men shew more sparingly. All these bal-  
 lanced together will (I doubt) continue no less than I say.

## The declaration of the desperate at- tempt made since by the feyre Archduke forces, for winning of the



Archduke Albertus knowing how accepta-  
 ble the newes of this parle would be to all his  
 friends, forgot not presently to write therof  
 to Germanie, Spaine, and Italie, declaring un-  
 to them his great good hope, within fewe dayes  
 to possesse the stronge towne of Ostend, but af-  
 ter he had found his hope thus deluded, (as is before sayd) was  
 kindled with greater wrath against the towne then at any  
 time before. And hereupon fell to counsell with his Colonels  
 & Captaines, what course he might best take in this so weigh-  
 ty a cause, and reuenge this mockerie done to him and his  
 whole estate. After much reasoning and debating (contrarie  
 to

to the opinion of some of his best appointed Captaines and Counsellors) it was concluded, that with all his forces, a desperate attempt should be made at one instant, as well upon the trenches and counterstarps without the Towne, as upon the old Haven, for the winning of the old towne, or at the least, wiffe of the sand-hill. The order of which enterprise with the day and time being now resolved upon, such Spaniards, Italians, and others as had before mutined in divers places, were with money pacified and commanded to the Campe: Ladders, Shovels, Spades, Pickaxes, and all other necessities were provided.

In the meane time the Archduke (to helpe the error of his former iudging, & perswading himselfe that the towne should not be able to withstand the force of this terrible enterprise) sent posts into all places (as before) aduertising his friends againe of this resolution, and that he made no doubt, but within ten or fourteen dayes to haue the towne at his command.

On Monday therefore, being the xxviii. day of December last An. 1603, being the day appointed for this great attempt, An Italian (who was among the rest appointed in the first ranks to begin this charge, at the old Haven, and knowing the action to be most desperate, and therefore small hope left him neuer to returne with his life) fled from the enemies Campe, and with his Rapier in his mouth swam into the Haven, and being receaued into the towne, declared vnto the Lord Generall, that the same day about 3 of the clock in the after-noon, when the water was ebbd from the walls, the enemy would with all his forces make his attempt both at the old Haven, and at the works without the towne with ten Thousand men, and that he was fled thither, to save his life as is before sayd: declaring farther, that it was resolved to renue the assault the two next daies following, & affirmed that if they were the first day valiantly repulsd, there was no doubt to be had that the soldier would bee brought to the like banquet the other two daies.

Sir Francis Vere (iudging before that the enemy had some such intent, by reason that he did all the same day as in the night before continue shooting against the sand-hill and port Dupi-

ed) had orders given other to the Captaines for the manning of 4 walls, trenches, and Countercarps, & caules some pieces of Ordnance to be removed, and planted 7 great murthering pieces upon the entrance of the Haven, which were well laden with square and musket shot, not omitting any things that a wise and vigilant Commander ought in so weighty a cause to foresee, encouraging his people to play the parts of good soldiers, and to bestow their shot well, and among the thickest of the enemies when they should make their approach.

When the hour appointed was come, and the water fallen, as is before written, the enemy marched towards the old Haven 400 men about, the foremost ranks carried Whouels, Spades, and Pick-axes, the next carried Labours, after them followed Targets, armed men, and Baskets, all marched forward with such resolution, as if they had made account to have found no resistance at all, but they were as gallantly, & with like courage received, & at all places answered with loss of their best blood, as well without the towne, as at the old Haven, where the murthering pieces caused the enemies to fall, as rotten ripe apples from the tree in a mighty storm. And although they could not enter the Haven, but they must goe in water up to the knees, they pressed forward, and those which came behind, put forward the foremost: But suddenly (as Sir Francis Veere had before ordained) twoo sluices were opened, the one giving way to the Land waters, and the other to the waters of the ditch about the towne, & reason whereof many of the enemies not able to keepe their footing) were drowned, and the others stode in water up to their Hauels, so that their shot served to no use, for their powder was hereby wet, but were forced to fight with their swords and rapiers: the fight continued on both sides with great furie and resolution, untill the darkness of the evening forced them to retire, whereof they were not a little glad, for the slaughter was verie great on the enemies side, most Spaniards, Italians, and other Nations to the number of 1400. besides many that were wounded. Many of the enemies had made provision of bread and chafe tied behind them to their girdles with a piece of match, thinking therewith

to help themselves for a day or two (if need should so require) after they had gotten the said hill as they were well accounted, and there to secure themselves from the shot of the towne for a time, untill they might with greater force and opportunitie obtaine the owle towne. In this assault at all places, there were not above 40 of the towne souldiers slaine and hurt: the Lords name be blessed therfore.

In this assault the enemies holsemen were appointed to followe the footmen at the heels, and were commaunded by the Duke not to suffer them to retire, but to force the hill forwarde on their enterprise, which they sought not to accomplishe: but as it should seeme not altogether with their owne securitie, for some of the horses with their saddle and byddels have bene taken up at Sluce, Flushing, West-cappell, and other places of Zeland, as it pleased the wind and waies to drive them.

The Lord Generall kept little the night following, but was busied in fortifying and repairing such places as according to the time was requisite, doubting least the enemy would the next day renew his attempt, whereas the Archduke wanted not any good will, but could not prevail with his souldiers to visit so unkind an host: yet such as came lately out of Flanders, report that the Archduke had appointed upon Thursday last past being the first day of this month of Januarie to give a new assault upon the towne withall his forces, and to that end hath provided 20000 armours of proofe. But the enemies souldiers unwilling to come to so desperate an attempt, have denyed their service, so that a mutinie is growne in the enemies Camp, 200 and oddes are already apprehended & some of the ring-leaders executed, whereof we shall shortly heare further.

In the meane time let all good Christians praye God for these his wonderfull victories, and with humble and heartie prayer without ceasing, move him to continue these his loving favours towaerd his poore afflicted Church. And contrarywise to confound and overthrow all the desires of this obstinate and bloudy Charles Archduke, with all others his adversaries.

herents and partakers, who sick and practise all means possible (as well as both by day and night) to devour, and shed the blood of the little flock of Jesus Christ, Amen.

### Additions.

By the Dutch Copts impainted at Middelburgh, received since the last suppression, it appeareth that in this assault the Earle of Truce an Italian with 1000 Italians assaulted the sand-hill, marked in the carte with this figure 3. The Earle of Bucquoy had the command of 1000 men who gave the enter-pulse upon the East Manelling marked in the carte with the figures 27. But by reason of the bye Rive so mainly growne, he was forced to alter his purpose, & to attempt the halfe mone beyond the breach marked in the carte with the number 25. The Governour of Dixmude with other 1000 men attempted the Porquerie marked 31 in the carte. Another Captaine with 500 men were appointed to win the West Manelling marked in the carte with the figures 23. The first attempt was by another Captaine with 500 men upon the Doluier, marked in the Carte with the number 48. The Sergeant major meant to occupy the west square with 1000 men, marked in the carte with the number of 40. But were in a short time received with great manhood & well beaten, & not above 100 of the Towne soldiers lost.

It was declared to the Generall by a soldier which came from the enemies that the next day, it was appointed to renew the assault with the Mallons & Dutch soldiers, but that followed not.

After the assault, were found 2 dead men, the one richly apparelled with a sword, it was thought his horse was shot, and himselfe wounded, the other had velvet breeches richly layde on with golden lace, and a gilded Rapiere hanging at his side, both which were esteemed to be some great Commanders.

The enemies sent a drummer to require 10 some prisoners of qualitie: & also to have a Truce for 2 or 3 hours to fetch away their dead, but it was denied them. And the same day being the first day of January at after many many soldiers were sent in to the Towne in long boats out of the ships, notwithstanding the



the enemies spared not in most terrible sort to shoot at them: but his shotte did small hurt, and slew only 3 men, and sonke one ship manned most with mariners: but (God be thanked) all the men were saved.

Another drum was afterwards sent to the Town to enquire as before (so) some prisoner of qualittie. the drum was willed to name the person, but would not. The speech is that the Earle of Tributio of Millan, taken to the Duke of Mantia Mastro del Campo was in this assault slaine.

In the Towne they continue fortifying, and make the same every day stronger and stronger, there are 15 Companies at Flushing which are of the old garrisons of Freez-land attending a faire winde to be put into Ostend.

One of the enemies drums which came to the Towne confessed that 1300 men were slaine in this assault, and 1000 hurt, besides those that were presently sent away in wagons, and drowned & carried into the sea by reason of the furies, that were opened as is before declared.

In the heat of this assault the ordnances which were planted upon the Porquepie, and the false bay markes in the carps with the figures 30, were overthrowne, because the enemy should have no use of them against the Towne, if he had happenen to take the sayd place.

The names of the great Personages which were  
slaine in this assault.

Simon Antony a Collorell.

Don Alvarez Schuarez of the order of the cross of St. James.

The Earle of Limbecke an Italian a man that might dispend 300 Discolats a day by his patrimonie.

The Bargeant Major Generall, who was one of the two that were sent to Ostend about the Earle the 25 of December last new stile, called Mathew Antonias.

Durago, a Collorell.

The Lieutenant to the Governour of Antwarpe: and among the dead carthasses was also a woman found dead.

FINIS.